

1 VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA

2  
3 RESOLUTION NO. 15 - 18

4 A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF ESTERO COUNCIL STRONGLY  
5 SUPPORTING THE PURCHASE OF LANDS SOUTH OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE FOR  
6 THE PURPOSE OF WATER STORAGE, TREATMENT AND CONVEYANCE SOUTH  
7 INTO THE EVERGLADES TO REDUCE DAMAGING FRESHWATER FLOWS TO  
8 THE CALOOSAHATCHEE AND ST. LUCIE ESTUARIES AND URGING THE STATE  
9 OF FLORIDA TO EXERCISE ITS LEGAL OPTION TO PURCHASE 46,800 ACRES OF  
10 LAND FROM THE U.S. SUGAR CORPORATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE  
11 EAA RESERVOIR; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

12 WHEREAS, the Florida Everglades and its coastal estuaries are an internationally  
13 unique ecosystem, a national treasure and a significant economic driver for Florida's economy;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, restoration of this Greater Everglades ecosystem is vital to Florida's future  
16 by protecting Florida's environment, economy, and drinking water supplies; and

17 WHEREAS, the citizens and taxpayers of Florida and Lee County voted in  
18 overwhelming majority to support the Florida Water and Land Legacy Constitutional  
19 Amendment, known as Amendment 1 for the purpose of land acquisition and Everglades  
20 restoration; and

21 WHEREAS, excess water from the greater Everglades ecosystem is discharged to the  
22 Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries causing catastrophic impacts to the marine  
23 ecosystem and local economies; and

24 WHEREAS, scientific studies and reviews over the past 20 years including the Restudy,  
25 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), National Academy of Sciences reviews,  
26 and most recently the 2015 University of Florida Water Institute Report all find that additional  
27 land is needed south of Lake Okeechobee to capture and store water during the rainy season to  
28 eliminate harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers,  
29 to treat and provide a water supply for the Everglades and Biscayne aquifer; and

30 WHEREAS, the State of Florida has the opportunity through a legally binding option to  
31 purchase 46,800 acres of land, which includes a 26,100 acre parcel optimally located south of  
32 Lake Okeechobee, which can provide a cost effective water storage solution for the Everglades  
33 and estuaries; and

34 WHEREAS, acquisition of this land provides benefits to multiple systems that will  
35 increase water storage and treatment capacity; reduce harmful freshwater discharges from Lake  
36 Okeechobee; improve the delivery of clean water to the Everglades; protect water supply  
37 interests; support a healthier ecological environment for Lake Okeechobee and the coastal

39 estuaries; reduce pressure on the Herbert Hoover Dike benefiting communities around the Lake;  
40 and

41 **WHEREAS**, the acquisition of this land is one of the only projects that will provide a  
42 solution for the catastrophic high flow impacts that devastate our estuaries and coastal  
43 economies; and

44 **WHEREAS**, time is of the essence as the contract to purchase 46,800 acres expires on  
45 October 12, 2015;

46 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Village of Estero,  
47 Florida:

48 **SECTION 1.** The Council of the Village of Estero, on behalf of the Village of Estero  
49 and its citizens, hereby registers its strong support for the acquisition of lands south of Lake  
50 Okeechobee and urges the State of Florida to exercise its option to purchase 46,800 acres of land  
51 within the Everglades Agricultural Area from the U.S. Sugar Corporation to help restore  
52 freshwater flows to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries. A copy of this Resolution will be  
53 provided to the members of the local legislative delegation, the President of the Florida Senate,  
54 the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, the State Association of Counties, the  
55 Florida League of Cities, the Florida League of Mayors, and the Mayors of each city within Lee  
56 County, Florida.

57 **SECTION 2.** Effective Date.

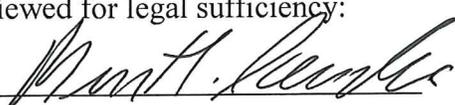
58 This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

59  
60 **NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Village Council of the Village of Estero,  
61 Florida:

62  
63 **ADOPTED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL** of the Village of Estero, Florida this 6<sup>th</sup> day  
64 of March, 2015.

65 APRIL  
66 Attest:   
67  
68 By:   
69  
70  
71 Interim Village Clerk/Manager

**VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA**  
By:   
Nicholas Ratos  
Mayor

72  
73  
74 Reviewed for legal sufficiency:  
75  
76 By:   
77  
78  
79 Interim Village Attorney